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SUBJECT: Chavez Calls Protesting Students "Fascists"; "Real Students Support the Revolution"

¶1. (SBU) Speaking to his cabinet in a nationally televised broadcast on February 5, President Chavez called the students who protested February 4 "fascists, subversives, violent, filled with hate and anger." He said they "destroyed part of the Metro, and wanted to fill Caracas with violence, so we did not allow them to do so, and we will not allow them to do so." He praised the Metropolitan Police, the National Police, the intelligence service, and the National Guard for their efforts to react "firmly." Chavez also said Ambassador Shannon had criticized Venezuela from Brazil, apparently referring to Ambassador Shannon's statements to the media February 4 regarding the need for dialogue rather than repression in Venezuela. Chavez said "the United States is in favor of this plan to try to foment violence in Venezuela."

¶2. (SBU) On February 7, Chavez said on his "Alo Presidente" show that "the real students support the revolution. These [other] small groups are fascists...who can be manipulated and confused." He said these groups wanted to "set fire to trees and cars, to have deaths and wounded people for the fascist television cameras behind them. Why? So that they can transmit to the world the idea that this is a repressive government."
DUDDY